

Written testimony in support of SF4312
Marit Brock, Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Senior
Fellow with the Everytown Survivor Network
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Dear Chair Latz and Committee members,

I am writing in support of SF4312 , strengthening requirements for secure storage of firearms and ammunition. Guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Minnesota, and requiring secure storage is vital to saving lives.

My younger brother died by suicide using his own hunting gun that our grandfather had given to him. Although it was put away, it was not locked, and neither was the ammunition. My mother still struggles with what might have been, if only his gun would have been locked on that terrible day.

My family considered themselves to be responsible gun owners, like so many hunting families in Minnesota. They didn't think the gun needed to be locked, because they understood gun safety. What they didn't understand is that suicide is an impulsive act, and that keeping a gun locked with the ammunition stored separately can mean the difference between life and death when a loved one is in crisis.

Too many Minnesota families are like mine - they don't think that gun violence or suicide can happen to them. Reinforcing safe storage behavior through state laws will help Minnesota families keep their loved ones safe.

I encourage members of the committee to vote **YES** on SF 4312.

Thank you!

Marit Brock

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